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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

POWERS et al

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February 25, 2000

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Attention: PCT Branch

Sir:

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**CODITIONAL SUBSTITUTE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

For the convenience of the USPTO, applicant herewith submits a copy of the IPER and responsively amended pages, if any, as filed with the IPEA.

If the international stage amendments conflict in any way with an earlier submitted preliminary amendment in this US national phase application made to eliminate excess filing fees associated with multiple claim dependencies, please cancel such earlier requested preliminary amendment(s) in favor of the following substitute preliminary amendment(s) which is(are) intended to eliminate all